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For Immediate Release
September 26, 2006

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Hardiman Calls on Congress to Immediately Pass Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization

LANSING—State Senator Bill Hardiman called on Congress to immediately pass the Enzi-Kennedy-Barton-Dingell Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization before it expires on Sept. 30.

“It is imperative that Congress passes the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization to ensure no interruption of treatment and services for people with HIV and AIDS, many of whom are low-income or live in communities disproportionately affected by the virus,” said Hardiman, R-Kentwood. “HIV/AIDS is no longer a disease limited to large cities, and nearly half of the new HIV infections in the United States occur in African Americans. It is essential that the CARE Act reflects these changes.”

Hardiman said the bipartisan-bicameral legislation provides federal funding to under-served populations, while continuing to serve communities that have historically been affected by this epidemic. The bill will help bring an end to HIV/AIDS waiting lists, ensuring that all Americans suffering from HIV/AIDS will receive access to treatment and care. It will bring much needed relief to rural and minority communities.

“For the first time, an HIV/AIDS testing provision will be included in the CARE Act,” Hardiman said. “For many individuals living with HIV and AIDS, passage of this Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization will be the difference between life and death.”

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